(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the income-limit specified for determining the eligibilty of a student for availing of free books and study materials for below the poverty line category; and

(d) what is the basis therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) As per information given in the Fifth All India Educational Survey (Reference dated 30-9-1986), the number of primary and upper primary schools in the States and Union Territories covered under various incentives schemes like provision of free textbooks, free uniforms and mid-day meals, to the students of indigent families or those belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and the number of students receiving such benefits, are given below:

| Schemes | No. of schools | Beneficiaries |
|---|---|---|
| **PRIMARY SCHOOLS** | | |
| 1. Free textbooks | 3,12,832 | 2,01,78,299 (22.28%) |
| 2. Free uniforms | 2,47,772 | 1,10,38,911 (12.7%) |
| 3. Mid-day meals | 1,46,798 | 1,35,97,136 (15.68%) |
| **UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS** | | |
| 1. Free textbooks | 71,010 | 10,27,453 ( 3.77%) |
| 2. Free uniforms | 48,384 | 42,76,821 (15.72%) |
| 3. Mid-day meals | 33,583 | 70,59,214 (25.95%) |

(Note: Figures in brackets give the percentage of beneficiaries out of the total number of enrolled children at that stage).

In respect of students of 261 residential Navodaya Vidyalayas run by the Central Government for the talented children predominantly from the rural areas all expenses including board and lodging, uniforms, textbooks, stationery and rail bus fare from and to their home stations are free. As per the latest data available, 77.36 per cent of the students of Navodaya Vidyalayas are from rural areas. 20.18 per cent of the students of Navodaya Vidyalayas belong to Scheduled Castes and 11.21 per cent to the Scheduled Tribes.

The income limit specified in determining the eligibility of a student for availing of these benefits and the basis thereof vary from State to State. The students of Navodaya Vidyalayas receive the benefits irrespective of their parental income.

**Foreign Seed Companies in Indian Market**

*339. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign seed companies have started dominating the Indian market after the recent liberalisation move;

(b) if so. what 6teps Government have initiated to ensure that large multi-nationals with immensely greater resources do not control the seed market in the agricultural sector; and

(c) what is the monitoring machinery available to suggest necessary safeguards?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Safeguards have been provided under the New Policy on Seed. Development which came into force In October, 1988. The working of the policy is reviewed from time to time.